

CLAIMS

- sub A' 1. A method for producing a cellulose derivative, which comprises
- 5 a) treating the pulp with a hemicellulase, and
b) chemically modifying the treated pulp.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the hemicellulase is an enzyme that hydrolyzes β -1,4-glycoside bonds.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the hemicellulase is a
10 xylanase.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the xylanase is obtainable from Bacillus sp. SD902.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the chemical modification is etherification.
- sub B' 15 6. The method of any of claim 1, wherein the chemical modification is methyl-etherification, ethyl-etherification, hydroxyethyl-etherification, hydroxypropyl-etherification, or carboxymethyl-etherification.

031343 081059